

MINUTES
MONTANA SENATE
68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION
COMMITTEE ON (S) NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: Chair Sen. Jeffrey Welborn-R, on February 01, 2023 at 3:05 PM, in 303

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Sen. Jeffrey Welborn, Chair (R)
Sen. Shane Morigeau, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Walt Sales, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Bob Brown (R)
Sen. Willis Curdy (D)
Sen. Pat Flowers (D)
Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R)
Sen. Jason Small (R)
Sen. Barry Usher (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Mike Lang (R)
Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)

Staff Present: Jason Mohr, Research Analyst
Jacelyn Sterling, Secretary

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted:

SB 219 01/30/2023

Executive Action:

SB 72 DO PASS AS AMENDED

HEARING ON SB 219 - Revise wildfire suppression laws

Opening Statement:

15:06:17 Sen. Willis Curdy (D), SD 98, opened the hearing on SB 219, Revise wildfire suppression laws.

Proponent Testimony:

15:13:42 Matthew Hall, Fire Bureau Chief, Department Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

15:16:24 Ole Hedstrom, Montana State Fireman's Association (MSFA)

15:17:26 Leo Dutton, Sheriff, Lewis and Clark County

15:22:39 Rich Cowger, Fire Chief, Columbus, Montana Fire Alliance

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:25:11 Sen. Bob Brown

15:25:43 Sen. Willis Curdy-D

15:27:04 Sen. Bob Brown

15:27:22 Sen. Shane Morigeau left the meeting.

15:27:38 Sen. Willis Curdy-D

15:27:56 Matthew Hall, DNRC

15:28:33 Sen. Bob Brown

15:28:44 Matthew Hall, DNRC

15:29:09 Sen. Pat Flowers

15:30:19 Sen. Willis Curdy-D

15:31:21 Shawn Thomas, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
(DNRC)

15:32:25 Sen. Pat Flowers

15:33:10 Sen. Ryan Lynch joined the meeting.

15:33:18 Sen. Shane Morigeau joined the meeting.

15:33:48 Sen. Willis Curdy-D

15:34:40 Sen. Walt Sales

15:35:41 Leo Dutton, Sheriff

15:38:35 Sen. Barry Usher

15:39:09 Jason Mohr

15:39:21 Sen. Barry Usher

15:39:59 Leo Dutton, Sheriff

15:40:22 Sen. Shane Morigeau

Closing Statement:

15:40:59 Sen. Willis Curdy (D), SD 98, closed the hearing on SB 219.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 72 - Revise judicial administration of water rights

15:46:35 **Motion:** Sen. Walt Sales moved that **SB 72 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

15:47:11 Jason Mohr

15:49:22 Sen. Bruce Gillespie

15:50:38 Jason Mohr

15:50:56 Sen. Bruce Gillespie

15:51:21 Sen. Barry Usher

15:51:32 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn

15:51:44 Sen. Barry Usher

15:51:56 Sen. Bob Brown

15:52:28 Jason Mohr

15:53:00 Sen. Bob Brown

15:53:13 Jason Mohr

15:53:18 Sen. Walt Sales

15:53:49 Jason Mohr

15:46:35 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

15:55:00 **Motion:** Sen. Walt Sales moved that **SB 72 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

15:55:19 Sen. Bob Brown

15:56:03 Sen. Barry Usher

15:55:00 **Vote:** Motion carried 7 - 4 by roll call vote with Sen. Brown, Sen. Gillespie, Sen. Morigeau, Sen. Usher, voting no.

Committee Discussion:

15:57:45 Sen. Barry Usher

15:57:51 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 15:58:09

Jacelyn Sterling, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230201NASaad\)](#)